

GROW

VEGETABLES IN
YOUR GARDEN

JOIN THE "MAGEN DAVID YAROK"

THURSDAY
MAY 8, 1953

THE JERUSALEM POST

PRICE: 70 PRUTA
VOL. XXVIII No. 7255

AFTER YOUR VISIT TO ISRAEL

Keep abreast with affairs by having

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Sent to your home address

Jerusalem Tel Aviv Haifa
Tel. 4233 Tel. 4251 Tel. 4594

Column One By David Courtney

Zionist Council Meets in J'lem

A unified, ringing appeal for a revitalized World Zionist Movement was sounded yesterday at the opening session of the Zionist General Council in Jerusalem, although the leaders who spoke differed somewhat in their approach to the problem.

The chief difference of opinion at the Council meeting in the crowded Jewish Agency auditorium appeared to be the one that cropped up at the 23rd Zionist Congress sessions last summer — the question of legal status for the Movement.

Amid laughter from the large audience, which included members of the Cabinet, the Knesset and the National Institutions, he apologized and promised not to repeat his mistake.

Earlier, Mr. Sprinzak indicated at a press conference that he might resign from his post as Chairman of the Council's Presidium, since he felt that it required someone who could devote more time to it. He noted that the proposed constitution for the Council calls for two plenary meetings yearly and possibly the establishment of an "inner council" to meet monthly.

Prime Minister Ben Gurion, speaking as "one who served for a long period in this building," asserted that far greater tasks face the Zionist movement than the question of legal status for the Movement.

"The Movement's prestige will be based on the degree of success with which it grapples with these problems, particularly in the fields of Hebrew education and training for agriculture abroad," the Prime Minister stated. "Retracting what he had said at the Congress, Mr. Ben Gurion declared that prestige cannot be bestowed on the Movement by the State or by a law. 'It can only come from inside the organization itself,' he said.

WE have not yet heard what the Spanish mission's embassy to the Arabs amounted to. Señor Artajo reported to the regular Cabinet meeting in Madrid last Friday. His report was confidential, but from the guarded comments in the Spanish Press during the past week, it would seem that the Arabs have taken seriously the proposal by General Franco that his country should serve as the bridge between Israel and the Western Hemisphere.

Madrid observers hint at the possibility of a new alliance between Israel and the West, with Spain as the ganglion, and with participation by the U.S. and the Latin-American republics. It is argued in Spain, and apparently confirmed by observations of Señor Artajo's mission, that the Arabs have not been impressed by the idea of a Middle East Command.

MADRID'S notion that she is peculiarly fitted by her geographical position, her racial association with Latin America and the military and economic agreement she hopes to conclude very shortly with the U.S. to act as broker in a marriage between Israel and the West, may sound a little far-fetched. There is no knowing, however, Spain's political and social system is probably more to the liking of Arab Governments than the systems farther west. She, like the Arabs, has a grievance against the Western democracies; and, like the Arabs, has something of a strategy in her mind. She is willing to pay for. Whether Spain is kept out of the U.N. or not, the alliance forebadowed in Madrid might give the Arabs the benefit of the votes of the big Latin-American bloc. It would also strengthen Israel in its quarrels with Britain and France, neither of which, presumably, would be a member of the alliance. It might also suit the Americans, who are "realists" where Spain and the Mediterranean are concerned.

NEGOTIATIONS for the bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Spain, which is intended to give the Americans the use of Spanish air and naval bases and the Spaniards the use of considerable American dollars, started at the beginning of April, soon after the arrival of the new U.S. Ambassador, Mr. McVeigh, and just about the time Señor Artajo's mission set out for the Arab countries. Towards the middle of April, Mr. George Train, Chief of the Mutual Security Agency's mission to Spain, arrived in Madrid and began the final stage of the negotiations. Now that Señor Artajo, the Foreign Minister, is back home, the agreement should be ready for signature any day. Mr. McVeigh took with him the \$10m. voted by Congress against the wish of the Administration, and Mr. Train had preliminary notes ready to sign once the bases were handed over. Out of it all, Spain cannot but expect a great deal stronger than she was and in a much better position to impress the Arabs both militarily and economically, especially as the Americans have been persuaded to drop the idea of pressing General Franco to liberalize his regime. What the upshot of it all will be is very hard to tell; but it would be idle to expect much good.

Tel Aviv, May 8.

Finance Ministry to Publish Data on Treasury Bills

The Ministry of Finance has decided finally to publish the amount of Treasury Notes issued by the Government since the establishment of the State, the Ministry spokesman disclosed in Jerusalem yesterday. This information has been a closely guarded State secret, as it indicates the size of the Security Budget. Now, however, since the entire Security Budget is covered by regular sources of income and is included in the Ordinary Budget, the security reason for secrecy has disappeared.

Kaplan Promises Economic Debate

A full-length Knesset debate on the country's economy will be held in a few weeks time, when the Development Budget is tabled, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan said in the Knesset yesterday. He was replying to a request by Mr. Yosef Sapir (General Zionist) for a discussion on the difficulties in obtaining raw materials for industry, and also on the payment of increments ("surplus tax") on manufacturers' stocks.

"The situation is extremely difficult," Mr. Kaplan admitted. By the end of this month or at the beginning of the next, he promised to inform the Knesset's Economic Committee of the Government's programs on the balance of payments, imports, as well as on the trade balance.

Difference in Value

What is generally called a "surplus tax," is in reality the difference in value which was created after the introduction of the new exchange rates, Mr. Kaplan said. The country had, in fact, spent \$1,870,000 up to April 25 to meet her increased foreign currency commitments, while only \$1,400,000 were received from local traders.

"We are not going to let a few people get rich on the difference of the rate of the currency," Mr. Kaplan said, "and the Government would be forced to fail."

REORGANIZATION OF Z.O.A. URGED

NEW YORK, Wednesday (INA). — The formation of a nation-wide "Committee for the reorganization of the Z.O.A." was announced today, calling for the nomination of Mr. Ezra Shapiro as President.

The need for a new program for the Z.O.A.'s activity in the field of Jewish education and in investments for Israel were stressed in a preliminary statement which also pointed out that the time had come to "normalize relations between the Organization and the Government of Israel."

Bolivian Mines, Rails To Be Nationalized

LA PAZ, Wednesday (Reuters). — Bolivia's national revolutionary government will nationalize the country's 30 mines, railways and communications, the Minister of Petrol and Mines, Oscar Juan Landa told the press today.

President Victor Paz Estenssoro told the meeting that the nationalization of the mines would be carried out "even in the case of our lives."

Israel-Norway Trade Pact Signed

The Israel-Norway trade agreement, providing that Israel import goods valued at \$500,000 from Norway, was signed at Hakiryia in Tel Aviv yesterday. Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett signed for Israel and M. Ernst Hougen, Norwegian Charge d'Affaires, for Norway.

Israel is to supply citrus fruits, ready-made clothes, cars, watches, kerosene stoves, iceboxes and pharmaceutical goods, and Norway frozen fish, fish meal, fish products, paper, fishing equipment and various chemicals.

Norwegian importers are to pay 30 per cent in foreign currency and 70 per cent in exports. It was arranged that the purchases be made before the beginning of the citrus season, since citrus fruit constitutes the bulk of Israel's exports. At the conclusion of the formalities, Mr. Sharett expressed his happiness at signing a treaty that strengthened the friendly relations existing between the two countries, and M. Hougen toasted the success of the negotiations in Hebrew.

Hamashbir Asks Status As Public Body

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — A resolution to demand Government recognition of Hamashbir as a public rather than a commercial body was adopted by the company's 19th conference which ended here this afternoon.

The conference resolved to demand of the Government, for the current year, an allocation of foreign currency double that in 1952. Last year's allocation was \$11.5m. In the course of the debate it was pointed out that the Mandatory Government used to direct a proportionately greater volume of trade to Hamashbir than the present Government.

Other resolutions included a decision to seek a \$12.2m. credit abroad and to establish two additional branches of the company in Western Europe.

Desert Research Symposium Opens in Jerusalem

With a reminder that reclamation of waste land had been the first problem of the early Zionist settlers 70 years ago, the Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben Gurion, yesterday assisted at the opening of Israel's first international scientific conference, the Symposium on Desert Research, which was held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall in Jerusalem last night.

Behind the speakers' table were crowded some 60 visiting and Israeli scientists engaged on various aspects of desert research.

Wilner Called to Order On Overstepping Time

Mr. Meir Wilner (Communist) was twice called to order by the Deputy Knesset Speaker, Mr. B. Mintz, yesterday, when Mr. Wilner continued his speech on bacteriological war beyond the time allotted him.

Mr. Wilner asked the House to declare the use of bacteriological warfare in Korea.

Mr. M. Argov, chairman of Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said "there were two sides killing each other in Korea," and each used the most modern means of destruction at its disposal. He said he saw no difference between "murder by bombs" or "murder by bacteria." International questions of such magnitude could not be solved in Israel, but should be submitted to the U.N. Mr. Wilner's proposal was voted down.

A request by Mr. Y. Ben-Aharon (Mapam) to discuss military aid from the U.S. was passed to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Curfew Imposed Near Mt. Tabor

A curfew has been clamped down on the villages in the vicinity of Mount Tabor near Nazareth. It was announced officially last night. The curfew follows the

Schumacher Asks Firm Reparations Offer to Israel

BONN, Wednesday (Reuters). — Dr. Kurt Schumacher, Social Democrat opposition leader, today called on the West German Government to give a "concrete and serious offer" of compensation to Israel.

Schumacher in a published statement welcomed the decision of the Knesset yesterday not to break off discussions with West Germany finally. He said Germany should offer to pay this sum in a period of time "which corresponds to the Bundestag's acknowledgment of restitution to Israel and the conciliatory expectations of the Israel Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett."

West German Government circles last night "most regretted" the Knesset's decision to suspend negotiations with Germany on reparations to Israel and Jewish organizations.

"We started negotiations in the hope they would lead to a final reconciliation between the Israelis and Germans," a source close to the Government said. "We are really taken aback by the decision that the Knesset will change its mind."

Acheson Sees Hope of German Peace Contracts this Month

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (AP). — Secretary of State Dean Acheson said today he has every hope that the Big Three will be able to sign the peace contracts with West Germany this month as scheduled.

He told a news conference that the Big Three are making progress, but it is impossible at this time to set a date for the signing.

He plans to fly to Europe to represent the U.S. at the ceremony.

In London Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the Commons today the Western Big Three will send a reply soon to the latest Russian note on a unified Germany and free all-German elections.

Possibility Not Excluded

To Labourite questions in the House, whether Britain, the U.S. and France would call for a conference with the Russians to find out the extent of the Soviet proposals, Mr. Eden replied, "I can only say that the possibility of a Four-power meeting at the appropriate moment."

Mr. Acheson also told a news conference that Moscow is insisting that it wants peace, but month after month it is pouring out a campaign of hate against the U.S. and Americans.

He said this situation is one of the indications of Russian intentions — in proposing a Big Four peace conference on Germany.

As other indications of the Russian intentions Mr. Acheson cited the attack by Soviet fighter planes on a French plane in Germany and efforts by Communist-run East Germany to incite Western Germans to overthrow the Bonn Government.

The backdrop behind them was provided by two large blue-and-white flags, of Israel and of the U.N., a symbol of the last big conference held in this hall — the UNSCOP group that was instrumental, less than five years ago, in persuading the U.N. General Assembly of the need to support the establishment of a Jewish State.

"The earth is made to be inhabited," Mr. Ben Gurion said. The State's need of land for its population, both present and future, had caused great efforts at reclamation to be made.

Lowdermilk President

Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, FAO Adviser to the Government of Israel, and introduced as the President of the Symposium by its organizer, Professor S. Sambursky, the Chairman of the Research Council, then formally declared the conference open.

"There's going to be a race between civilization and famine," he said, "and the restoring of waste land is one way by which we may win the race."

There was a curiously quiet atmosphere in the hall, which was dominated by grey heads and intellectual faces from more than a dozen countries. Of the diplomatic corps only the British Charge d'Affaires, Mr. John G. Chadwick, and the Yugoslav Minister, M. Dusan Bratic, were seen, together with Israel Cabinet members, the Israeli Minister to London, Mr. Eliahu Elath, and a large number of scientists.

A message from Dr. Weizmann delivered by Dr. L. Kohn recalled Dr. Weizmann's hopes for the full resettlement of the entire Middle East, and Jewish settlement as the first

P.O.W. Exchange Alone Delaying Korea Peace

No Yielding on War Prisoner Issue, Truman Declares

WASHINGTON, Wednesday. — President Truman today flatly rejected the Communist demand for "forced repatriation" of prisoners of war in Allied hands in Korea. He was backed by Secretary of State Dean Acheson. In London Foreign Secretary

House Leaves Aid To M.E. Intact

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (Reuters). — The House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday slashed \$1,010,000,000 from the European section of President Truman's \$7,900m. Foreign Aid Bill, but left intact the funds demanded for the Middle East.

The Committee is expected to finish its study of the Bill today.

Meanwhile, a Senate Foreign Relations Committee report on the Bill has asked that the Israel aid programme be considered as temporary, terminating as soon as practicable.

Mr. Acheson also told a news conference that Moscow is insisting that it wants peace, but month after month it is pouring out a campaign of hate against the U.S. and Americans.

He said this situation is one of the indications of Russian intentions — in proposing a Big Four peace conference on Germany.

As other indications of the Russian intentions Mr. Acheson cited the attack by Soviet fighter planes on a French plane in Germany and efforts by Communist-run East Germany to incite Western Germans to overthrow the Bonn Government.

Tunis ex-Ministers Released by French

TUNIS, Wednesday (Reuters). — Tunisian Prime Minister Salah Eddine Baccouche today won one of the points he considers essential before prominent Tunisians will consent to join a Franco-Tunisian joint commission to work out constitutional reforms — the release of nationalist ex-Premier Mohammed Chrik and three former nationalist Ministers, who were back in their homes near Tunis today after 41 days of forced residence in the south.

They have been asked to refrain from political activity for the moment and were barred from Tunis city and Carthage where the Bey is living, but were free to go anywhere else in Tunisia or to France.

But French security officers today moved the Tunisian Nationalist leader Habib Bourguiba to a new residence on the island of El Habib, about 10 kilometers off northern Tunisia from Koudia where he had been under house arrest.

French officials gave no immediate explanation for the transfer.

Fechteler Returns without Agreement

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuters). — Admiral William Fechteler, U.S. naval chief of staff, flew back to the U.S. today to report to top political level in Washington his failure to solve the 18 month old dispute between Britain and America over the appointment of a naval commander in the Mediterranean.

Churchill Reshuffles Tory Cabinet

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuters). — Minister of State for Dominion Affairs Alan Lennox-Boyd becomes Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in a Ministerial reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Churchill tonight.

Mr. Ian Macleod becomes Minister of Health in place of Harry Crookshank and Mr. Hopkinson, Minister of State for Overseas Trade, becomes Minister of State for the Colonies.

Today is the Last Day

to ensure your participation in the distribution of free tickets to the Festival in Paris and to other functions of the Binyaney Ha'ooma.

Shows are available at all banks, travel offices and special distribution centres.

TAINT 111 3/2K

